

States must be governed by reason and policy, and not by the weakness produced by acrid and vitiated humors.

(Signed)

NAPOLEON.

A few days after this letter was despatched to Louis, Napoleon heard of a paltry affray which had taken place at Amsterdam, and to which Cointe de la Rochefoucauld gave a temporary diplomatic importance, being* aware that he could not better please his master than by affording him an excuse for being angry. It appeared that the honor of the Count's coachman had been put in jeopardy by the insult of a citizen of Amsterdam, and a quarrel had ensued, which, but for the interference of the guard of the palace, might have terminated seriously since! it assumed the character of a party affair between the French and Dutch. M. de la Rochefoucauld immediately despatched to the Emperor, who was then at Lille, a full report of his coachman's quarrel, in which he expressed himself with as much earnestness as the illustrious author of the "Maxims" evinced when he waged war against kings. The consequence was that Napoleon instantly fulminated the following letter against his brother Louis: —

BUOTHEK— At the very moment when you were making the fairest protestations I learn that the servants of my Ambassador have been ill-treated at Amsterdam. I insist that those who were guilty of this outrage be delivered up to me, in order that their punishment may serve as an example to others. The Sieur Serrurier has informed me how you conducted yourself at the diplomatic audiences. I have, consequently, determined that the Dutch Ambassador shall not remain in Paris; and Admiral Verhulst has received orders to depart within twenty-four hours. I want no more, phrases and protestations. It is time I should know whether you intend to ruin Holland by your follies. I do not choose that you should again send a Minister to Amsterdam, or that you should dismiss the French who are in your service. I have recalled my Ambassador as I intend only to have a *chef d'affaires* in Holland. The Sieur Serrurier, who remains there in that capacity, will communicate my intentions. My Ambassador shall no longer be exposed to your insults.

for the evils that weighed upon Holland.— *Jlwrrienne*. The conduct of Bonaparte to Murat was almost a counterpart to this. When Murat attempted to consult the interests of Naples he was called a traitor to France. —*Editor of WM edition*.